

PRESS RELEASE SENATOR MARTHA M. ESCUTIA 30th Senate District

Representing: Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Cudahy, East L.A., Florence/Miramonte, Hacienda Heights, Huntington Park, La Mirada, Maywood, Los Nietos, Montebello, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, South El Monte, South Gate, Vernon, Walnut Park, Whittier

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Whittier – Senator Martha M. Escutia will honor three exemplary women to be honored as 'Woman of the Year' for the 30th Senate District.

"The decision made by the Women's Caucus to honor a 'Woman of the Year' in our own districts rather than at the Capitol has proved to be beneficial," said Escutia, former Chair of the Legislative Women's Caucus, "we continue the recognition of the women who have made significant contributions in our district as well as give the community the opportunity to participate in the celebration."

"The 'Woman of the Year' is a wonderful event that allows me the opportunity to honor and showcase women's outstanding achievements in my district. Every year it is difficult to select one woman to be recognized. That is why I am taking this opportunity to honor three exceptional community women leaders at this year's 'Woman of the Year' Luncheon."

The first woman of the year is Maggie Carrillo Mejia PhD. Dr. Carrillo Mejia is currently the Superintendent of the Montebello Unified School District. Her educational efforts are visible in improved student test scores, increased attendance rates, a growing number of partnerships and grants, and the completion of many facilities enhancement projects throughout the district.

The second woman of the year is Angie Medina. Ms. Medina has numerous years of community service and has held several leadership positions in her community. She is one of the founding members of the Whittier Latino Coalition, an instrumental board member of SPIRITT Family services, a member of The National Hispanic Media Coalition, a member of The Los Angeles County Hispanic Managers Association and a member of The Wall-Las Memorias project. She also has many years of service to the Los Angeles County's health care field. Ms. Medina is currently employed as the Director of the Children's Health Outreach Initiative.

The third woman of the year is Veronica Molina. Ms. Molina is a long-standing South Gate community member. Her dedication and commitment to the city and community of South Gate is amply demonstrated through her active involvement at St. Emydias PTA, and as a coach for the local youth sports leagues. Over the past 4 months Ms. Molina has been a full-time volunteer on a grass-roots information campaign teaching her neighbors on democracy and the proper workings of government. Her efforts in South Gate have given the rest of the county, state and nation a lesson in effective civic involvement. Her efforts have helped turn South Gate from its notorious past to a model for democracy.

Senator Escutia will honor Maggie Carrillo Mejia PhD, Angie Medina and Veronica Molina at a formal luncheon on Friday March 21, 2003 at Tamayo's Restaurant in East Los Angeles from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.